

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 4, 6 and 16 without prejudice. Please amend claim 19 and add new claims 24-30 as follows:

1 1. (original) A data storage system comprising:
2 at least one data storage canister, each data storage canister
3 comprising:
4 a shell;
5 a frame disposed within the shell, the frame extending in a lengthwise
6 direction along the shell;
7 a plurality of mounting points disposed along the frame, each mounting
8 point capable of accepting one module of uniform size, the mounting points spaced
9 such that mounted modules are mounted in a parallel, spaced apart manner;
10 a connector system operative to pass electrical signals through the
11 shell;
12 a power bus interconnected to the connector system, the power bus
13 operative to deliver power to each module;
14 a communication interconnect system operative to transfer signals
15 between each mounted module and the connector; and
16 a plurality of data storage modules, each data storage module mounted
17 at one of the plurality of mounting points, each data storage module in electrical
18 contact with the connector system, the power bus and the communication interconnect
19 system.

1 2. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a retention system for seating the canister within the data
3 storage system.

1 3. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a lock for holding the canister within the data storage
3 system.

1 4. (canceled).

1 5. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a label mounted to the canister, the label including
3 information specific to the plurality of data storage modules held within the canister.

1 6. (canceled).

1 7. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the plurality
2 of canisters have a standard length, at least one short length canister having a length
3 shorter than the standard length, the data storage system further comprising at least
4 one canister extender that attaches to the back of a short length canister to provide
5 electrical connections and air flow to the short length canister.

1 8. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the plurality
2 of data storage modules comprises a plurality of disk drives with data storage disks.

1 9. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the frame
2 comprises a printed circuit board.

1 10. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the frame
2 comprises at least one flexible cable.

1 11. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the frame
2 comprises a plurality of manifolds encasing the plurality of data storage modules.

3 12. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 further comprising
4 a data storage rack forming secondary packaging for holding more than several
5 canisters.

1 13. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 further comprising
2 a module docking station forming secondary packaging for no more than several
3 canisters.

1 14. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises an access port providing access to one of the plurality of
3 data storage modules held within the canister.

1 15. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister automatically recognizes capabilities of secondary packaging within the data
3 storage system to which the canister is connected.

1 16. (canceled).

1 17. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a processor separate from the plurality of data storage
3 modules, the processor in electrical contact with the connector system, the power bus
4 and the communication interconnect system.

1 18. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the data
2 storage system forms a plurality of virtual volumes, each virtual volume having
3 storage requirements different than the physical resources provided within a single
4 canister.

1 19. (presently amended) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein
2 the at least one canister ~~the plurality of canisters~~ is a first plurality of canisters and
3 a second plurality of canisters, ~~the data storage system further comprising a second~~
4 ~~plurality of canisters~~, each canister in the second plurality of canisters having at least
5 one performance characteristic substantially different than ~~improved over~~ the at least
6 one corresponding performance characteristic in the first plurality of canisters, the
7 data storage system operative to transfer data from at least one of the canisters in the

8 first plurality ~~set~~ of canisters to at least one of the canisters in the second plurality ~~set~~
9 of canisters.

1 20. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 further comprising
2 a docking station accepting one of the plurality of canisters, the docking station
3 operative to communicate with a plurality of appliances.

1 21. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the canister
2 further comprises a user interface.

1 22. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein data
2 storage modules are dynamically allocated.

1 23. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister provides variable bandwidth access to data storage modules within the
3 canister.

1 24. (new) A data storage canister comprising:
2 an elongated shell having a front face, a rear face, and four elongated
3 sides extending between the front face and the rear face;
4 a plurality of data storage modules mounted within the shell, each data
5 storage module having two major sides and four minor sides, each minor side
6 extending between the two major sides, each major side having a greater surface area
7 than any minor side, each data storage module mounted with each major side
8 substantially parallel with the shell front face and the shell rear face;
9 a connector system on the shell rear face, the connector system
10 operative to pass electrical signals through the shell;
11 a power bus interconnected to the connector system, the power bus
12 operative to deliver power to each module; and
13 a communication interconnect system operative to transfer signals
14 between each mounted module and the connector.

1 25. (new) The data storage canister of claim 24 further comprising
2 a threaded canister retention mechanism extending from the shell rear face.

1 26. (new) The data storage canister of claim 25 further comprising
2 a paddle for rotating the canister retention mechanism, the paddle extending from the
3 shell front face.

1 27. (new) The data storage canister of claim 25 wherein the power
2 bus and the communication interconnect system comprise flexible cabling.

1 28. (new) The data storage canister of claim 25 wherein the power
2 bus and the communication interconnect system comprise a printed circuit board.

1 29. (new) The data storage canister of claim 25 further comprising
2 an access port on the shell front face, the access port providing access to one of the
3 plurality of data storage modules held within the data storage canister.

1 30. (new) The data storage canister of claim 25 further comprising
2 a user interface on the shell front face.